

Baker to visit Kuwait next week

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State James Baker will visit Kuwait next week as part of his Middle East tour, State Department officials said Thursday. But they denied an earlier report quoting a senior U.S. official that his visit would take place as early as next Monday. Officials also said Mr. Baker was likely to visit Israel on his trip. Other stops would include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Turkey. President George Bush announced Mr. Baker's Middle East trip in his television address but did not mention a visit to Kuwait City. Mr. Baker has been criticized by American Jewish groups for never having visited Israel. In the runup to the war, he travelled to the Middle East four times but avoided visiting the Jewish state for fear of alienating Arab members of the coalition. Now that the war is over, it was widely assumed that Mr. Baker would include a stop in the Jewish state. The United States and its partners have repeatedly pledged to make a serious effort to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict after the war with Iraq.



Israeli killed in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jewish seminary student who was stabbed to death, apparently by a Palestinian, was buried Thursday in a funeral attended by about 1,000 mourners. The slaying in Jerusalem's old, walled city broke a lull in fatal attacks on Israelis by Palestinians during the Gulf war. Police identified the victim as Eliana Atai, 27, who studied at a seminary in the Old City's Jewish quarter. Police said a friend found his body Thursday in a pool of blood in the nearby Muslim quarter. His throat was slit, the report said. Police said the stabbing apparently occurred Wednesday night. "On the surface it appears a (Palestinian) nationalist motive, although we are investigating in all directions," a police spokesman told Israel Radio. Several Arabs were questioned but later released, police said. Reinforcements were moved to the Old City. Before Thursday's incident, there were nine fatal attacks on Jews by Palestinians since the Oct. 8 massacre in Jerusalem. Some of the deaths sparked retaliatory attacks and angry funeral processions, but Thursday's funeral march passed without incident.

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Ceasefire in the Gulf

28-nation coalition, Iraq end military hostilities

War is stopped

Combined agency dispatches
ALLIED AND IRAQI forces suspended attacks Thursday and began the work of forging a peace.

Military officials said Thursday evening that they considered the ceasefire declared late Wednesday by U.S. President George Bush to be holding, despite reports of sporadic Iraqi fire.

Mr. Bush claimed a "quick, decisive and just" victory after Iraq pledged to accept all U.N. resolutions on Kuwait and ordered its forces to stop fighting.

The ceasefire that went into effect at midnight on Wednesday (0500 GMT) ended fighting for the first time since allied forces launched bombing attacks in the first phase of combat to drive Iraq from Kuwait it took over on Aug. 2.

"Kuwait is liberated. Iraq's army is defeated," Mr. Bush said in his seven-minute speech on Wednesday night. "Our military objectives are met."

Six weeks to the day after he ordered a U.S.-led alliance to fight Iraq, Mr. Bush said the bloodstream could end.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said U.S. troops might be able to start coming home within days.

"At midnight tonight eastern standard time, exactly 100 hours"

since ground operations commenced and six weeks since the start of Operation Desert Storm, all U.S. and coalition forces will suspend offensive combat operations," Mr. Bush said.

Baghdad Radio said in a broadcast following Mr. Bush's speech that Iraq would not bow its head to anyone and was "as sharp as the edge of the sword."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Thursday ordered his troops to stop fighting three hours after the allied ceasefire took effect.

Western diplomats at the United Nations said early on Thursday that Iraq had accepted all 12 U.N. resolutions adopted since its invasion of Kuwait without conditions.

Mr. Bush who staked his presidency on rolling back the Iraqi invasion, said the allies were suspending military operations contingent on a cessation of Iraqi hostilities and an end of missile attacks on Saudi Arabia and Israel.

"It is up to Iraq whether this suspension on the part of the coalition becomes a permanent ceasefire," he said.

He called for Iraqi military commanders to meet allied commanders in 48 hours to arrange the release of prisoners of war as

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IN SOLIDARITY: Thousands of people demonstrate in Amman Thursday in support of Iraq (see page 3)

Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan

U.S. to set terms for peace today

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES plans to propose a resolution outlining Gulf war peace terms to the United Nations Security Council Friday, a State Department spokeswoman said Thursday.

U.S. officials are consulting on details with allies in the coalition against Iraq and expect this "would result in a new resolution that we would take to the Security Council at the earliest opportunity, probably no later than tomorrow," spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters.

Diplomats said the majority of the council members, led by the United States and Britain, want to resolve outstanding questions such as the exchange of prisoners of war and abducted civilians before formally ending hostilities.

Hours after U.S. President George Bush announced a ceasefire in the Gulf war, Iraq accepted the coalition's conditions for suspending military action after making several previous peace offers that the allies considered unacceptable.

The Security Council met behind closed doors late Thursday, moving to consider the situation and Iraq's position, contained in a letter to the council and to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The council also took note of the allies' provisional ceasefire.

"Victory is not how many tanks or planes we or the enemy used. It's all steel which can get ruined," it said. "Victory is the fact that you acquire in the history books as a great Arab achievement."

British Prime Minister John Major said the allies were demanding that Iraq destroy its ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction after the Gulf war.

"Through the United Nations we shall... seek a commitment

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Iraqis bitter over treachery of Arabs'

From Lamis Andoni in Baghdad

THE KALASHNIKOV barrage of Kalashnikov shots fired in the air at day break told only part of the story of the sad city. Gloom faces and paired eyes on the streets of Baghdad revealed the injured pride of a fighting nation.

Four hours after the U.S. declaration of a ceasefire, relief was tinged with sadness in Baghdad. "Of course we wanted peace, we are relieved that war will be over," said a young grocer. "But at what price..." he asked dropping his eyes in unspeakable sorrow.

While Baghdad was the focus of the world attention on Thursday, its residents appeared to be totally absorbed in a world of their own — isolated from friends and foes. "At this minute my main concern is to get my three boys back home and alive..." said a merchant at the fresh produce souk in the popular area of Kazimieh.

Big black banners with the names of soldiers and civilians who were killed in the war contrasted with the bright golden domes and minarets of the stunning Kazimieh Shiite mosque.

A young attractive woman said that she was also waiting for her brother. "I am waiting," 25-year-old Maha said. But Maha, as many other Iraqis, is able to move beyond her personal sorrow

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President Saddam Hussein be topped.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office, said in a radio interview the Iraqi people must remove president Saddam for the good of their country, the Arab World and "obviously for us."

Israel Radio said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would visit Israel for the first time during a Middle East tour next week. Washington said only that he was coming to the region.

"I have to say that I don't feel that the war is over if Saddam Hussein stays on as president of Iraq," said Israeli President Chaim Herzog.

Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "We can certainly welcome the glittering victory of the United States and its allies. "But he demanded the elimination of Iraqi missiles to remove any threat to Israel.

Israeli commentators focused

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Jordan hopes for quick diplomatic peace process

Kingdom urges relief efforts for Iraqis

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Thursday welcomed the ceasefire in the Gulf war and expressed hope that the truce would be formally confirmed and lead to a permanent solution to the conflict. The Kingdom also called for immediate moves to address the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people who have been under some of the heaviest bombardments in history for the last six weeks.

Jordanian officials and politicians expressed hope that a diplomatic process would get off the ground soon not only to resolve the Gulf conflict but also to address the fundamental Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem.

Information Minister Tamer Al Masri said Jordan hoped that the ceasefire would lead to a formal ceasefire resolution issued by the U.N. Security Council and pave the way for a permanent settlement of the conflict.

At this point in time, Mr. Izzedine told the Jordan Times, "what is important is to have a

proper ceasefire in place which will allow the Iraqi people to get what they need urgently."

The minister expressed hope at an earlier press briefing that diplomacy would take over from the ceasefire on the ground and "end this ugly war so that we can move into the post-war era."

"This was a war that Jordan was totally against," he said. "We are relieved that it has ended now."

Optimism that the war has finally come to an end was also expressed by the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament as well as parliament members.

But several other parliamentarians, officials and politicians contacted by the Jordan Times said they were relieved that the ceasefire had ended the military conflict — and "the killing of civilians and massive devastation of Iraq" as one senator put it —

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Jordan refutes charge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Thursday categorically denied reports that it had supplied arms and ammunition to Iraq in violation of the international embargo imposed on Baghdad following the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

"We are surprised at such reports which are carried without proper verification," said an official spokesman. "We reject such reports and reiterate that Jordan has not supplied Iraq with any weapon or any other military equipment after the Gulf crisis erupted on Aug. 2," the spokesman said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The statement came in response to international agency reports which quoted unidentified American military intelligence sources as saying that the allied forces in Iraq had found weapons allegedly supplied by Jordan after the U.N. Security Council imposed the international embargo on Iraq. These weapons, according to the reports, included rocket launchers, bombs, mortars and ammunition.

The Jordanian spokesman recalled that it was not the first time that Jordan had faced such allegations. He said that Jordan, in line with an agreement with both Saudi Arabia and Iraq, had negotiated with China on behalf of Iraq to procure Chinese-made weapons during 1981, one year after the Iran-Iraq war began.

These weapons, which were of the same description as cited in the latest reports, were delivered to the Iraqi authorities through the Saudi port of Al Qudaima in coordination with the Saudi armed forces during the Iran-Iraq war, the spokesman said.

"These supplies," the spokesman noted, "came at a time of

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World heaves a sigh of relief

Combined agency dispatches

THE WORLD breathed a sigh of relief that the Gulf war was over Thursday.

But politicians in different capitals, reacting to the 0500 GMT ceasefire announced by U.S. President George Bush, interpreted the outcome of the conflict through their own filters.

Most were content to praise the "victory" of the U.S.-led allied forces and the United Nations role in the crisis.

Some looked ahead to rebuilding the Gulf region, others pledged troops for a U.N. force.

"Kuwait has been liberated and one of the most remarkable military campaigns of all time has been concluded," said Prime Minister John Major of Britain, a leading alliance member. "Our troops have performed magnificently. Right has prevailed."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl called the outcome "a victory of justice over injustice, a victory of freedom over violence."

Huge joint efforts are needed to find negotiated solutions to all problems of the region — including the Palestinian question and Lebanon. At the same time, Israel's security must be guaranteed," Mr. Kohl said.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher suggested the Iraqi people replace their president, "because Saddam Hussein has excluded himself from the world community with his policies and his crimes," he said.

In Paris, Defence Minister Pierre Joxe said French troops would remain in Iraq until the United Nations works out a cease-

fire details.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said the ceasefire proposal was a moment of "great relief and hope, of great pride and great sorrow....

"But we are glad that the world has stood united against (an) act of aggression even to the ultimate sanction of war."

"It's over, it's finally over," said Italian Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni. "Diplomacy and the will of man must now work for peace and security..."

NATO, many of whose members had troops in the coalition, hailed it as a U.N. victory.

"We welcome the report that Iraq will abide by all the United Nations Security Council resolutions dealing with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait," a NATO spokesman said. "This is a very

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Iran warns allies against meddling in Iraq

Combined agency dispatches

IRANIAN LEADERS said Thursday they opposed the dismemberment of Iraq or the setting up of a puppet government by victorious U.S.-led allies.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati stressed that the future of Iraq must be decided by the Iraqi people, and warned the allies not to interfere, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast quoted Mr. Velayati as saying that Iran was "opposed to foreign intervention in the future of the people of Iraq."

Mr. Velayati's comments came hours after U.S. President George Bush declared a ceasefire in the Gulf war, following Iraq's

acceptance of all U.N. Security Council resolutions passed during the crisis.

Speaking to clerics and students of Islamic science in Tehran, Mr. Velayati said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had to be challenged, "but not by people who never did or will ever consider the interests of Islam and the Muslims."

Iran has stressed that the regional countries must maintain security in the Gulf.

Two Tehran newspapers said now was the time for Iran to press for reparations for the eight-year conflict with Iraq which caused Iran damage officially estimated at one thousand billion dollars.

Many Iranians believe Tehran will use Iraqi planes which fled to

Iran over the past weeks as leverage in any negotiations on reparations.

The planes, said by the allies to number about 150, include some of Iraq's combat aircraft, each worth tens of millions of dollars.

Neutral Iran said during the war that it would keep the planes until the end of hostilities.

Mr. Velayati defended Iran's neutrality in the war "which was for power, not one between Islam and infidelity."

He stressed Iran's "opposition to Iraq's partition and foreign meddling in determining the Iraqi people's destiny," Tehran Radio said.

He said the crisis did not start with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August but had its roots in

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Israeli post in Lebanon rocketed

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance fighters launched a rocket attack on an Israeli outpost in South Lebanon Thursday in defiance of Lebanese army authority in the region, police said.

They said Israeli gunmen retaliated by shelling the army-controlled villages of Habiboun and Kfar Rumman from which the four Soviet-designed rockets were launched.

There was no immediate report of casualties or damage.

In another development, a 20-man strong group from the mainstream Palestinian Fatah faction withdrew from olive groves in Qum Al Tufah to the north of Habboush after it was besieged by the army for three days.

A police spokesman said army scouts "located the guerrilla band" near the village of Sarba three days ago.

Sarba is a tiny mountain village in the province, (10 kilometres) north of Habboush.

"The army blocked all supply lines to the guerrilla band and ordered it to withdraw. The guerrillas withdrew around noon (1000 GMT) Thursday after they ran out of supplies," said the police spokesman.

He said the guerrilla withdrawal was "achieved peacefully. There were no clashes. The army escorted them to the vicinity of the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh."

Ain Al Hilweh, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, is southeast of the port city of Sidon, which is not policed by the Lebanese army.

The rocket attack, according to the police spokesman, targeted the Israeli-controlled Suwaida hill, which is in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" of South Lebanon.

Israeli gunmen retaliated about noon local time (0900 GMT) by shelling Kfar Rumman, adjacent to Nabatiyeh, and Habboush, three kilometres north of the market town, with tank fire, the spokesman said.

About 2,000 Lebanese troops moved into South Lebanon Feb. 6, hoping to assert control over the region which has been used by Palestinian and other groups over the past 16 years to launch resistance attacks against Israel. Most guerrillas in the area agreed to cede control to the army.

Israel maintained the 1,100-square-kilometre "security zone" when it withdrew the bulk of its invading army from South Lebanon in the summer of 1985.

The zone, policed by some 1,000 Israeli troops and 3,000 allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army, extends from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the slopes of Mount Hermon in the east.

The strip is intended to serve as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla infiltrations into northern Israel.

At the height of the Gulf war, which broke out Jan. 17, resistance fighters launched a barrage of rockets at Israeli targets in what some reports suggested was opening of a "second Gulf war front."

More than 1,000 Israeli soldiers and the 5,000-strong pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army patrol the "security zone." The entry to the region by Lebanese government soldiers has not affected the "security zone."

Hurd, Baker discuss post-war scenario

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Wednesday they hoped the Gulf conflict had made Arabs and Israelis more willing to work to end their disputes.

The two ministers, who met for more than an hour to discuss post-Gulf war peace efforts, also raised the prospect that the U.S.-led alliance would retain sanctions on Iraq after the war has ended.

Mr. Baker, speaking to reporters at the U.S. State Department, said settling the age-old Arab-Israeli conflict was one of the alliance's post-war goals.

But he stressed "you are not going to make progress on Arab-Israeli peace unless the parties themselves really want to make progress."

He noted the war would "change things quite substantially in the region."

"At the first appropriate opportunity... we'd like to see the degree to which they (Arabs and Israelis) are interested in intensively pursuing peace, how involved they would like to become and specifically what contributions each side would want to make to this process," Mr. Baker said.

Nevertheless, "the world community has to try again in the hope that the shock that everyone in the Middle East has endured... in these last months will produce a new impetus, will produce maybe some fresh thinking, some willingness to consider ideas which were rejected before," Mr. Hurd said.

Later, he told a press conference that a mechanism for dealing with this issue, which Iraq had tried to link directly to the Gulf crisis, had not yet been worked out.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Hurd, close allies in the war effort, said they would work closely in peace efforts, although they warned bringing stability to the region would not be easy.

One key question is what to do about air-tight sanctions imposed on Iraq by the U.N. Security Council last August in an effort to persuade Baghdad to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait.

Mr. Hurd, after meeting President George Bush at the White House Wednesday, declared the sanctions must remain in effect after the war until all issues, such as the release of prisoners of war and the payment of reparations, are resolved.

"I would expect the sanctions to remain on once the fighting has stopped," Mr. Hurd said. He declined to say how long the embargo would stay in effect, adding "that will depend on the policies of whatever government there is in Iraq."

Mr. Baker later said that as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power the Security Council "at the very least" should retain an arms embargo to prevent Iraq from rearming.

The Los Angeles Times reported the Bush administration was forging a strategy to prompt a coup in Baghdad by preventing President Saddam from rebuilding Iraq's war-shattered economy.

It quoted senior U.S. officials as saying the United States intended to maintain economic sanctions that block Iraqi oil exports, depriving Baghdad of vital income needed to recover from massive allied bombing raids.

Iraq, in offering to end the war, has called for the immediate lifting of sanctions, but the U.S.-led alliance has refused, demanding full compliance with all U.N. resolutions.

Britain's force of 43,000 soldiers, airmen and sailors is the second-largest non-Arab contingent in the alliance fighting Iraq, after that of the United States.

On Thursday, Mr. Baker was meet French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Friday, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Mr. Bush was also to meet with both men.

Britain and France are key allies in the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq and have made a heavy commitment of troops of the multinational effort. Germany's contribution has been mostly financial.

Hawke: No end to crisis

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Thursday the issue of a Palestinian homeland must be resolved in order to end the crisis in the Middle East.

"We must understand that an end to the war would not be the end of the crisis," Mr. Hawke told reporters after President Bush said allies would suspend combat operations at 0500 GMT.

Mr. Hawke said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership "has done enormous damage to its credibility by the way in which it has conducted itself during this conflict."

But he added there should be a distinction between the Palestinian people and the PLO.

Mr. Hawke cited the security of Israel, the rights of Palestinians and the position of Lebanon as key issues to be addressed in a post-war Middle East.

U.S. army engineers poised to spearhead Kuwait reconstruction

By Martin Morris
The Associated Press

DHAHRAN — U.S. military engineers in Kuwait are gearing up to clear rubble, repair streets and rebuild seaports under a 90-day emergency programme financed by the emirate's government.

Kuwait officials estimate it will cost at least \$50 billion to rebuild their country and already have signed 171 contracts with U.S. companies. Others have been awarded to several allied nations.

The U.S. army corps of engineers was awarded the \$45-million contract to run the first 90 days of the cleanup. They will not begin before they get the go-ahead from allied military authorities that the city is safe.

Only sketchy reports are available on the extent of destruction. But reports from the city say there is no water or electricity, and Kuwaiti officials doubt there will be telephone service or medical supplies.

Mehran Nakjavani, an expert on the Kuwaiti economy who teaches at Montreal's McGill University, said the emirate's desalination plants were destroyed.

Such plants are delicate and, if damaged, could well have to be rebuilt from scratch inside the shell of their old building, Mr. Nakjavani said. This would take at least three months.

Associated Press reported John King reported from Kuwait City that the city's main power station as well as a backup facility had been destroyed.

Unlike desalination plants, power plant equipment such as turbines is quite robust and some stations could be brought back on line within about a month, Mr. Nakjavani said.

Mr. King said the roads from the Saudi border were pockmarked with shell holes. Chunks of splintered oil pipelines littered the main north-south highway.

That damage, though extensive, can be repaired quite quickly. More serious are the cracks in many highway bridges, the results both of allied bombardment and heavy pounding from Iraqi military vehicles that overloaded the bridges.

Abdul Latif Al Hamad, who heads the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, said officials were worried that too many Kuwaitis might flood back home in a hurry on strain overstretched resources.

One of the first priorities is to bring in several satellite dishes to provide international phone lines so exiled Kuwaitis can contact their families and make sure they're safe.

"That way, we can cool down the desire to rush into Kuwait," said Mr. Al Hamad, who moved his headquarters to a temporary office in Bahrain after the Aug. 2

Iraqi invasion.

The largest question mark hangs over the oil industry. About 600 oil wells, half of Kuwait's producing capacity.

If the explosives that set the fires were placed on the surface of the wells, the damage would be spectacular but not difficult to repair: The fire can be put out because it is on the surface, and the wellhead equipment replaced.

But if the Iraqis sank explosives down the wells themselves and detonated them underground, the damage would be much more extensive.

He said it was conceivable that some of the underground oil reservoirs themselves were damaged. In that case, they would have to be completely sealed off and new wells re-drilled elsewhere in the area.

That would be a painstaking task requiring detailed surveys by sensitive seismic monitors, which cannot work properly if artillery, or the explosions from mine clearance, are going off even dozens of kilometres away.

Mr. Nakjavani said the Kuwaiti government would put a high priority on restoring some kind of oil production quickly.

He estimated the emirate could produce 100,000 to 200,000 barrels of crude a day within four to six weeks from undamaged wells, after pipelines to the sea have been patched and a makeshift mooring terminal erected.

But Kuwait's central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, estimated Wednesday that nine months may be needed before oil production can resume. The varying estimates are a result of the extreme uncertainty as to the amount of damage.

Kuwait was producing more than 1.6 million barrels of oil a day before the Iraqi invasion. There have been some estimates from Kuwaiti officials that pre-war production levels could be restored within a year to 18 months, but Mr. Nakjavani called that "just a stab in the dark. No one has any idea."

It will take longer to repair Kuwait's three sophisticated refineries, which processed a total of 750,000 barrels of oil a day.

British share

Ten British firms are among an international group of companies shortlisted for lucrative contracts to be awarded next week for emergency repair work to Kuwait.

A total of 36 firms will present bids to the U.S. corps of engineers.

Company representatives said the firms were given 48 hours Wednesday to submit detailed bids for the contracts.

Limited role seen for Japan in Kuwait reconstruction

By Martin Morris

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ministry of finance will allow seven Kuwaiti banks to draw on their bank deposits and other financial assets in Japan from March 18, a ministry official said Thursday. Kuwaiti assets in Japan were frozen shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 to avoid withdrawals by Iraq, he said. The decision was made after a request from Kuwait's central bank and was in line with similar decisions taken by the U.S. Treasury Department and the Bank of England earlier this week, he said. The ministry has asked banks and brokerages to check carefully that deposit withdrawals, money transfers, and sales of stocks and bonds are authentic.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan to unfreeze Kuwaiti assets

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ministry of finance will allow seven Kuwaiti banks to draw on their bank deposits and other financial assets in Japan from March 18, a ministry official said Thursday. Kuwaiti assets in Japan were frozen shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 to avoid withdrawals by Iraq, he said. The decision was made after a request from Kuwait's central bank and was in line with similar decisions taken by the U.S. Treasury Department and the Bank of England earlier this week, he said. The ministry has asked banks and brokerages to check carefully that deposit withdrawals, money transfers, and sales of stocks and bonds are authentic.

Dynamite attack on Kuwaiti firms in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Dynamite exploded early Thursday outside the Beirut offices of two companies linked to Kuwait, causing minor damage but no casualties, witnesses said. They said a man threw a stick of dynamite into the entrance of a building where the Bank of Lebanon and Kuwait and Kuwait Airways have offices. The blast, a few hours before a ceasefire was declared in the Gulf, brought to 26 the number of the attacks in Lebanon on interests linked to the U.S.-led coalition at war with Iraq.

Rocket aimed at French embassy

BEIRUT (AP) — Police said Thursday that they had foiled a rocket attack against the French embassy in west Beirut's Clemenceau Street. A short police statement said the rocket was defused Wednesday by a sniper "a few minutes before the launching time." The statement said the rocket was attached to a timing device and a mine-volt battery. It did not disclose further details. The abortive attack was the latest in a series of such attempts. On Wednesday, a stick of dynamite exploded at the French Cultural Centre in the northern port city of Tripoli, causing damage but no casualties.

Red Cross set to go to Kuwait

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will soon send representatives into Kuwait for the first time since Iraq invaded the emirate last August, a spokesman said. The humanitarian agency will send eight Swiss delegates from Bahrain in the next day or two who will survey medical needs and make sure all civilians are treated fairly, regardless of nationality. The spokesman also said that about 150 doctors from the Algerian and Tunisian Red Crescent would be flying into the Iraqi capital later this week to reinforce Red Cross medical staff already there. The ICRC added that it was sending three water purification machines, each capable of distilling 80,000 litres per day, as Baghdad's water supply system had broken down. The spokesman said foreigners in Kuwait, such as those who do not have diplomatic representation or Palestinians without official status, could be protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which deals with civilians in time of war. "We will go to verify that all these groups will have the same access to hospitals as other civilians, will have the same treatment, will have the same food and will not meet any special problem because of their nationality," he said.

Dutch team to visit Kuwait next week

THE HAGUE (R) — A Dutch government delegation will visit Kuwait next week to discuss with Kuwaiti officials the rebuilding of their country in the aftermath of the Gulf war, officials said Thursday. The Dutch Economics Ministry said the delegation, headed by Joop Veling, the ambassador to Kuwait, will offer technical assistance programmes to be subsidised by the Netherlands. Prospects for Dutch firms to participate in the post-war reconstruction of Kuwait will also be discussed, a government spokesman added.

Two reservists first U.S. women killed in Gulf

GREENSBURG, Pennsylvania (R) — Two young women reservists were among those killed in an Iraqi missile attack on a U.S. army barracks in Saudi Arabia, military officials said. They were the first U.S. female soldiers to die in the Gulf war. They were identified as reservists Christine Mays, 22, of Rochester Mills, Pennsylvania, and Beverly Clark, 23, of Armagh, Pennsylvania. Both were members of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment. The two women were among 29 U.S. soldiers killed Monday when a scud slammed into a U.S. army barracks in Saudi Arabia. At least 11 of the 29 dead were believed to be from the 14th and another reserve unit headquartered in western Pennsylvania, officials said.

Kuwait will not sell Spanish assets

MADRID (R) — Kuwait will not withdraw investments in Spain to help pay for its reconstruction programme following the Gulf war, Spanish Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga said. He told reporters that the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) had given guarantees to the Spanish government that it would not sell assets here to raise funds. The KIO's main interests in Spain are held by Grupo Torras SA, one of the country's biggest industrial groups in which it has a controlling stake. The KIO has never revealed the value of its investments in Spain. Mr. Solchaga earlier told a joint committee on European community affairs that the negative impact on Spain's economy of the Gulf war would be less than first feared. He noted that the economy would benefit from oil prices still fluctuating between \$15 to \$20 a barrel, well below the \$25 estimated by the government for the 1991 budget. He said 1991 would be a year of transition for the Spanish economy, in which the government would be hoping for a narrowing of the current account deficit and lower inflation. Success on those fronts would help bring down interest rates, he added.

U.S. ambassador due in Kuwait

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. ambassador to Kuwait was to return to his embassy Thursday by which time the Kuwaiti government was expected to have taken control of the country, a senior State Department official said late Wednesday. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tuwiler said Ambassador Skip Guehring would return at the head of a large team to reopen the embassy in Kuwait City. "We are planning to be able to return to our embassy Ambassador Skip Guehring as early as tomorrow," she said.

An official said Washington would not be sending back its ambassador unless it was assured that the government to which he was accredited was also in place. Ms. Tuwiler said Mr. Guehring, who has been staying close to the Kuwaiti government-in-exile in Taif, Saudi Arabia, had assembled a team of experts from a variety of different U.S. agencies to accompany him. "The exact composition of the initial team that will be going in with the U.S. team depends to a certain extent on the Kuwaiti government having their ministers back and their government back," she said. The U.S. team would include political, economic, consular, public affairs and administrative officers.

Hizbullah vows to fight U.S. in Gulf

BAALBEK, Lebanon (R) — A leader of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God) said Thursday the "real mother of all battles" has just begun: Between Islam and the United States. "The real mother of all battles will be between the Muslims and the United States... it has just started," Hussein Mousawi said in the city of Baalbek, 70 kilometers east of Beirut. "Muslims in Iraq and all the world will sit and watch Westerners take control of their wealth and land, they will fight," he said. "We will defeat our discredited shrines and fight for our oil," Mr. Mousawi said. "The Americans will leave the Muslim lands with disgrace just like they left Beirut." A Hizbullah suicide bomber hit the U.S. marine barracks in Beirut in October 1983, killing 241 U.S. servicemen. The U.S. contingent to the multinational force in Lebanon left several months later.

Kuwait oil wells may blaze for a year

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

LONDON — Kuwait's blazing oil wells, posing a daunting challenge to firefighters, may still be belching smoke from the desert beyond the

Jordan marks 35th anniversary of Arabising the Jordanian army

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Friday marks the 35th anniversary of Arabising the Jordanian armed forces. On March 1, 1956, King Hussein ordered the termination of the services of the then commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces John Glubb and the other foreign leaders, and entrusted Jordanian officers with the command of the armed forces.

This move constituted an extremely important step in view of its timing, as it came at a critical stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the dangers posed by the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The step was also a historical turning point, which sparked nationalist and pan-Arab feelings, and demonstrated Jordan's keen interest in ridding itself of the foreign hegemony. The move also reflected His Majesty King Hussein's resolve to build a strong army, capable of defending the homeland and serving the interests of the people.

Since that time, King Hussein has been giving his full attention

to the armed forces and has made every possible effort to provide this army with the most advanced weapons and military equipment to enable it to undertake the duties assigned to it.

On the occasion, Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb sent a cable to King Hussein, expressing his and the armed forces' congratulations and best wishes on this occasion.

In his cable, Abu Taleb voiced

the forces' pride in the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and their allegiance to his person. He said that the King's historic step came amid difficult and crucial circumstances in the Arab World and crowned the struggle of the vanguard who led the Great Arab Revolt and sought to uphold its principles and achieve its objectives. Gen. Abu Taleb said that the Arab Nation has faced many challenges targeted at destroying its order, civilisation and culture, but was able to overcome them with stronger resolve and strength to face any challenge.



Demonstrators gather at the Hashemite Square in downtown Amman Thursday after a 6-kilometre march from the Abdali bus terminal (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



Government considers second oil tanker

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government is currently studying leasing a second oil tanker with a 50,000 tonne capacity to maintain sufficient supplies of crude oil in the kingdom, according to an official statement issued Thursday by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

The government last month announced that purchase of a 100,000 tonne capacity tanker to be stationed at Aqaba Port at the cost of \$7.5 million.

According to the announcement Thursday, the oil tanker named Al Azraq has now arrived at Aqaba laden with 90,000 tonnes of crude oil bought from Yemen. The tanker has been bought in conjunction with the Jordan National Shipping Lines.

This is the first time in which the Kingdom buys crude oil from Yemen in this manner, the announcement noted.

Earlier this month, Syria agreed to sell oil to Jordan to make up for the shortfalls from Iraq, and some of this oil has already arrived by truck.

Prime Minister Musad Badran said that the first five trucks loaded with oil and four others filled with gas arrived last Saturday and others are on their way. He said in a statement to the

Jordan Times that Jordan was buying 30,000 tonnes of oil from Syria at market rates.

Jordanian officials had said that Jordan consumed 50,000 barrels of oil daily, but the influx of 300,000 Jordanians with 25,000 cars from Iraq and Kuwait had pushed the demand up to 65,000 barrels prompting the government to ration petrol and to allow private cars to run on alternate days only.

Oil experts said Iraq was supplying Jordan with about 40,000 barrels of oil every day before some of its facilities were hit in allied bombardment which began Jan. 17 and war planes started strafing Jordanian tankers ferrying oil from Iraq to the Kingdom.

Earlier this month, Canada announced that it would come to Jordan's help and would cover the cost of buying oil at open market prices to compensate for cheaper Iraqi oil which Jordan imported at the price of \$16 a barrel.

Iraq supplied the oil repayment for debt incurred during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war. According to Mr. Badran the debt now stood at \$236 million, down from what some officials said, exceeded \$1 billion at one point.

The mood of the demonstrators was jubilant as they hailed and welcomed the call for ceasefire by U.S. President George Bush. "The United States was forced to accept a ceasefire because it suffered many casualties. It is a victory for Iraq, because the ceasefire was attained under Iraqi conditions," Nabil Allan, an engineer, contended. He also added that Iraq's stand for forty days in the face of "aggression" by the allies is proof of victory.

On the other hand, some people were more cautious in their reaction towards the ceasefire. "I

don't think this is end. On the contrary, this is the beginning of a very dangerous stage in this conflict. I believe this is a true not a total ceasefire," Mohammad Taleb told the Jordan Times. He attributed his scepticism to the fact that it was a decision taken by George Bush and not the United Nations Security Council. "Usually when you have a ceasefire, the U.N. Security Council is the one that orders it," Taleb said.

Another demonstrator, Rushdie Alqam, said that he believed

the United States made a grave mistake by following the withdrawing Iraqi forces into their territories. "Now the Iraqis are fighting for their sovereignty and are more willing to sacrifice in order to maintain their integrity," he said. "American penetration into Iraqi territory is aimed at occupying this territory and using it as a bargaining chip against the Iraqis," Alqam added.

A professor in political science, Dr. Shehab Al-Hafez, said that the Iraqis became convinced when the Americans entered

that Israel was untouchable, and brought the Palestinian cause into the limelight," he added.

The demonstration was organised by Jordanian professional association and labour unions.

Some demonstrators were glad that hostilities were over, but showed disappointment with the role of some Arab nations in the region. "We could have taken this chance to solve all the outstanding problems in the region if some Arab nations played a more active role and joined hands with Iraq," a young demonstrator who withheld his name said.

"Saddam revived the Palestinian problem, and established the spirit of jihad," Ibrahim Atiyeh, a student at the University of Jordan said. "He broke the myth

Anti-coalition protest spreads to elite school

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The bitterness towards the United States and the West that grew among Jordanians since the Gulf crisis started on Aug. 2 — and the bombardment of Iraq by the U.S.-led alliance for forty days — has infected pupils of one of Jordan's top schools, the Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS).

Driven by a strong feeling of Arab nationalism, about 200 pupils of the private school Wednesday went on strike for three periods (about two and a half hours) not only to support Iraq, but also to demand the resignation of their British headmaster and head of the senior school.

Mais Darwazah, a 15-year-old tenth-grader, told the Jordan Times that about 200 of the junior and high school pupils marched in the campus carrying Iraqi flags and chanting pro-Iraqi slogans.

During the march, the high-school pupils were able to attract the children from the elementary school who defied their teachers to join the demonstration, she said.

She added that the marchers ended up in front of the administration and demanded the resignation of their headmaster and head of the senior school, Boyd Roberts and Nick Bowley respectively.

Neither could be reached by the Jordan Times for comment.

"We demanded an Arab administration for the school," Mais said, adding that they chanted, "Out, out, we want an Arab administration."

"It is very frustrating that all other schools go out on demonstrations in Amman and we are not even told about them," said Mais, who

was speaking on behalf of her colleagues friends. "We need an Arab administration that thinks and feels like us."

The pupils had been complaining that some of the foreign administrators had left the country during the war and did not return until four weeks after school reopened, inducing a feeling that they had somehow "betrayed us during difficult times and when they were needed." They claimed that the two administrators were offered higher salaries in order to come back to Jordan, something they believe is not deserved.

Some pupils even demanded to study only in the Arabic language and not in English.

Mohammad Alayyan, the 17-year-old president of the ABS student council, told the Jordan Times that the march was originally organised to express support for Iraq, and that the students had misunderstood that the administration was run by foreigners.

"The administration is an Arab and the board of directors are Arabs," explained Mohammad, referring to a conviction he had after meeting and discussing the issue openly with the board of directors on Wednesday afternoon after the unprecedented demonstration in that school.

He said only about 25 students had wanted the resignation of the British administrators, contradicting reports by other students who said that most of the senior school pupils made that demand.

Pupils demanded that Mr. Roberts come out to meet the demonstrators and express support for (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein, and he told us that he could not do that," Mohammad said.

He added that after he and representatives from the stu-

dent body met with the board, they explained to him that they needed Mr. Roberts "because there was no Arab or Jordanian who qualifies for this position because contacts are needed with the outside."

Sharia Zain Nasser, the director of ABS's fundraising and development, described the discussion between the representatives of the students and members of the board as "very open with no hard feelings."

She told the Jordan Times that the board explained the policy of the school, adding that the students had only felt let down by the expatriate teachers who left the country.

"It was explained to them that the school was a non-profit organisation headed by the Hashemite Society for Education, and told them that we prefer to have Arab and Jordanian teachers," Sharia Zain said. "But sometimes you can't find the qualified teacher needed and have to employ non-Arabs."

She predicted that there will be other marches within the campus, but marches in support of Iraq.

A 15-year-old tawjih pupil who did not want to be identified by name told the Jordan Times that the student council president had promised the students that the foreign administration would resign.

Mais insisted that Arabs were needed in the administration positions. "For our school to work right, our principles should be Arab and think the way we do," she said.

The pupil who requested anonymity said that her colleagues had given the British administrators until Saturday to resign.

What if nothing happens? "We'll protest again until they do," she said.

Iraq's objectives achieved — Iraqi official

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "(The real) war has just begun. Our role was to implant the seed of goodness in the soul of every Arab and Muslim individual, and we have succeeded in doing that. The war has proved that this Arab Nation is capable of defeating any aggression no matter how strong and violent it is," said Mohammad Al Hayali, head of the Professional Union Complex in Iraq, who is on a temporary visit to Amman.

Mr. Hayali expressed satisfaction and content over the current events and what he saw at the victory of the Iraqis and described this experience as evidence that the Arab Nation will "stay alive" and will not die; "especially if there exists a national and sincere leadership that shoulders the Arab yearning for unified national action to liberate our territories and preserve our dignity."

Mr. Hayali confirmed that a

solution to the Palestinian question, being a priority in Iraq's plans, will soon be found. "Certainly the Palestinian issue will be addressed. We hope that an international conference will be held, because this is what we aimed at in the first place and it was an essential part of our programme," he maintained.

However, the Iraqis were evidently disappointed with other Arab countries' stands during the war, according to Mr. Hayali. "The well-organised Iraqi withdrawal proves that," he explained. "The 100,000 raid on Iraq did not cause any retreat or fear on the part of the Iraqis. On the contrary, it reinforced their stand and made them more committed to national principles and morals in defending the castle of Arabism," he stressed.

"Saddam is a man who does not fear anything and who has faith in national causes," Mr. Hayali said. "He knows no defeat."

Inertia in the Arab populace



SENATE: The Upper House of Parliament

discussed articles of the provisional law of the Higher Court of Justice. The Senators approved several articles of the proposed law and made slight amendments to others. The Senate, meeting under the chairmanship of its speaker Ahmed Al-Lawati, adjourned its discussion of the Higher Court of Justice's provisional law for further consultations with its legal committee. The Senate also decided to postpone a presentation by Prime Minister Musad Badran on the political situation in the region to another closed session, and until new information about the situation in the Gulf is made available.

TERMS

(Continued from page 1)

The council meeting broke up in the afternoon with no indication that a formal meeting would be held soon to adopt an official ceasefire.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad Al-Hassan said outstanding concerns must be resolved before peace can be formally declared.

"That is what we expect first, the acceptance of what President Bush requested on behalf of the coalition," he said.

Mr. Al-Hassan said Iraq is holding about 22,000 Kuwaiti civilians and another 8,632 Kuwaiti prisoners of war.

"We hope this is the beginning of the end of this terrible tragedy," Mr. Al-Hassan told reporters as he entered U.N. headquarters earlier Thursday. Now, he said, "it is for the Security Council to reach the necessary conclusions."

Iraq first announced it had accepted all 12 U.N. resolutions, then later Wednesday in a

letter to the Security Council it agreed to all 12 resolutions. About two hours later, Mr. Bush announced the ceasefire.

Yemen's Ambassador Abdella Saleh Al-Ashraf said the council must now decide how long the allied forces should remain in southern Iraq and under what conditions they will leave.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has said he was ready to send in U.N. peacekeeping to monitor a ceasefire, if asked by the council.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) demanded Thursday that the Security Council enforce its resolutions against Israel the same way it did against Iraq.

"All efforts should from now on be deployed with the view of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the same rapidity as that which settled the Gulf crisis, on a basis of international legality," said Yasir Arafat, PLO chairman.

Mr. Arafat, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, urged all Arab countries to pressure the Security Council to prove no double standard exists in the Middle East.

Egypt's Information Minister Safwat Al-Sherif said his government will speed up establishment of an Arab-based security system to facilitate the pullout of non-Arab coalition forces.

Across Europe and Asia, governments voiced relief that the shooting had stopped. Some looked further, to long-term Middle East peace and reconstruction in the war zone.

"The end of military activities, after the misery that we have seen and heard in the past weeks, is to be welcomed," said Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. "It is also to be welcomed that a spoke has been put in the wheel of an aggressor."

Norway offered humanitarian aid. Belgium said it was ready to treat Iraqi wounded. Japan said it would aid Kuwait.

"This was a day of victory for the U.N.," said Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen.

World

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. vote that authorised force against Iraq.

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Iran

(Continued from page 1)

there must be no difference between 598 and 674," it said. Resolution 674 orders Iraq to pay for damages its troops caused in Kuwait.

Reza, an engineer in his 40s unhappy with Tehran's Islamic government, shared the view of a radical clerical group that the Americans would now turn their military might on Iran.

"After Iraq is Iran's turn. So many American troops would not go back without carrying out this mission," he said.

The Combatant Clergymen, a group to which parliamentary Speaker Mehdi Karroubi belongs, said in a statement the United States would not leave Iran alone and urged revolutionaries to attack U.S. interests around the world.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Another question for Israel was whether it should still retaliate for missiles shot at Israel since Jan. 18, which killed two Israelis, wounded 330 and damaged nearly 11,000 homes.

Israel has said it will retaliate at the right moment but has refrained from doing so to avoid complicating the U.S.-allied war effort.

"We seek no revenge," said Uriel Savir, Israel's consul general in New York. But he added: "If the threat continues, we may take actions in the future."

In another sign of normality returning, Israel Radio carried its first weather report in about six weeks. Military censors halted the reports to avoid giving Iraqi pilots any clues about conditions for bombing raids.

Financial course ends

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Beyond the war

THE WAR is over! The immense suffering, the human tragedy, the massive devastation that it has caused will be with us for a long time to come. Was it all necessary? Could it have been avoided? These and many other questions will be asked. Volumes will be written on this war. But it is too early to tell whether convincing — or correct — answers can ever be found, whether memory of the nightmare will ever fade.

For most of us here in Jordan, the war was not only senseless, but pointless as well. Members of the coalition, particularly its leader the U.S., see things in different light. We will probably never see eye to eye with them on this one. In the long term, history will be the judge. For now, one has to look ahead. The lessons learned will have to be put to good use. Iraq is down but not out. It will have to be rebuilt and reconstructed. So will Kuwait. So will the damage that has to be repaired, the destruction that has to be reversed. The enemy, the bitterness, the hatred have to be replaced with bridges of mutual respect and understanding. It will be a stupendous task, but nevertheless one that has to be undertaken and accomplished.

Central to this endeavour will be efforts to resolve all outstanding problems and issues that plague this part of the world. Sincerity, depth, fairness and justice will have to be the guidelines.

The Palestinian problem has to be tackled and solved right away — not at the expense of the PLO or the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. A settlement that is honourable and lasting has to be found, addressing rights where they have to be addressed and reaching roots that have to be reached. A formula for distributing wealth has to be devised. The poorer nations will not have to beg for subsistence and help. The rich will have to give. The less fortunate cannot possibly be expected to remain unfortunate for very long.

Democracy, freedom and independence are inalienable rights that cannot be denied to any people or state. Tyranny and monopolies and repression will have to end. The so-called guardians of human rights cannot be selective in applying their standards and principles. Every man and woman has the right to be free. Everybody is equal before God and the law.

Mass destruction weapons have to be eliminated from this region, if not from the face of the earth. Double standards and selectivity in applying rules to one state rather than the other should not be tolerated. Hypocrisy and duplicity, particularly by the West, have led to war and destruction. They could do the same in the future if they stay unchanged.

Foreign forces and troops will have to go back to where they came from. The era of colonialism is gone for ever. And the peoples of the region have to themselves take care of their security and the stability of their world. Recipe made or imposed by others cannot work. They will backfire the moment they are introduced.

The Arab World will have to find itself again. Continued division and fratricide will not serve the cause of peace and progress. The Arabs will have to realise that fissures in their ranks have nearly caused their whole world to explode like a bomb. Finally, victory cannot be claimed by any side or party to this war. Victory can be claimed only when peace is made and only by those who make it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE UNITED States is wrong to imagine that with its aggressors, it has imposed its respect and hegemony on the Arabs and Muslims, said Al Ra'i Al Arabi daily Thursday. Indeed, with its flagrant aggression the United States' credibility is at its lowest ebb, not only due to the huge losses it has suffered in the war, but also because it has enlisted the help of 20 nations to assist it in aggression in an Arab country, the paper pointed out. With the Iraq withdrawal from Kuwait, the reason for continuing the war has ended, and the United Nations Security Council resolutions have been met, and therefore any attempt to pursue the war on the part of the U.S.-led alliance simply means a breach of the United Nations charter and all international rules, the paper said. What the United States is doing now is carrying out an invasion of a sovereign state and member of the United Nations organisation, for the only reason of maintaining its drive to destroy Iraq and the Iraqi people, the paper added. It said that this shameful American action is bound to sow the seeds of bitterness and enmity for the United States in the whole Arab region, and Washington's continued show of arrogance is bound to destabilise security and peace, and deal a致命 blow to the future of the whole region. The consequences of continued aggression on Iraq, the paper noted, can by no means be in favour of the United States, because the Arabs have realised by now that the aggression is directed against the whole Arab nation and is designed to achieve Israel's expansionist goals. Therefore, it said, the Arabs bound to take whatever measures they can and utilise all available means to defend themselves and thwart the aggressors' conspiracies and aims.

Now that Iraq has pulled out its forces from Kuwait and recognised all U.N. Security Council resolutions, why should the United States, which had bragged about the need for Iraq to meet these requirements to stop the fighting, continue to invade Iraqi territory? asked Sawi Al Shaab Arabic daily. The world community now fully realises the fact that Bush and his allies have violated the international legality in order to achieve their own selfish aims in Iraq, and impose hegemony on the Arab World, said the paper. When the aggression started, the allied forces justified their raids on Iraqi cities and their barbaric crimes on site to the population of Iraq by stressing that this was needed in order to force Iraq out of Kuwait, the paper noted. Now that the Iraqis are out of Kuwait and have recognised all the U.N. Security Council resolutions, there can be no justification or excuse for any U.S. soldier to fire a single shot on the Iraqi side, said the paper. But it added, should the aggression continue and the conspiracies sustain, the Iraqis know how to defend their land and their future and will by no means enable the aggressors to achieve their evil goals.

After the devastation, the light: A time to rebuild Iraq

By Dr. Shamil Kubba

THE DENTERITY, valour and stoicism of the Arab Nation, of which Iraq and its heroic people are an integral part, needs no elucidation. Likewise, the infinite resilience of this great nation to overcome and absorb enormous tragedy and hardship is legendary.

Even during these dark hours, with the scent of death saturating the air, many Arab and foreign economists see in the country's destruction an analogy with the destruction of Germany and Japan during the Second World War. These economists are confident that once this numinous war is over, Iraq too will witness a great building and technological boom, perhaps, the greatest in the country's glorious 10,000-year history.

This does not mean that the

country's rebuilding process will be all honey and roses. Indeed, many difficulties will continue to confront the people of Iraq — no matter who is in power. Not least of all is the expected avalanche of international litigation that looms over the horizon, particularly regarding war reparations.

However, many other pertinent questions also need to be asked, addressed and answered. For example, will post-war Iraq be liable for debts incurred prior to the invasion of Kuwait, or will these debts be forfeited? Also, what of the United Nations resolutions, will they be nullified? And who will pay for the mass destruction that has been inflicted on Iraq? Will it be the Iraqi people who bear the brunt of the cost, or will the international community offer meaningful financial and technical assistance?

If the Iraqi people are forced to foot such an enormous bill, from their own resources, how it proposes to do so, is a \$4 billion question. With the price of oil dropping significantly and the value of the American dollar systematically and deliberately falling, the Iraqi people may have to endure years of austerity. Optimistic estimates suggest that it would take at least a decade to rebuild Iraq, resulting in a bill somewhere in the region of \$150-200 billion.

Yet not a single specialist has even started to undertake a detailed analysis of what will take place, once the war is over. One thing is certain however, a task force — either Iraqi or from the United Nations — needs to be set up urgently, and begin a survey of the devastated and destroyed that has taken place in the region. Once the magnitude of

the catastrophe is assessed, proposals can be put forward on how best to rebuild the country and get it on its feet again.

Unlike the Kuwaitis and Saudis, a large percentage of Iraqis are highly educated and possess considerable expertise. They will therefore demand to play a major role in the planning and management of any post-war reconstruction programme, rather than merely dish out the money, as is normally the case with the Kuwaitis and Saudis.

As part of its strategy for a quick recovery, Iraq will need to rely heavily on friendly states (assuming no radical leadership changes take place) like Jordan (for manufactured products), Sudan and Yemen (for labour) and some of the Eastern bloc countries like the Soviet Union, China,

Yugoslavia and North Korea for the undertaking of large building projects and certain expertise regarding the repair of oil refineries, etc. Close cooperation with Iran is expected. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, will be looking largely to American firms for assistance in their rebuilding programmes, and secondly to British and French firms. Since these western firms will be employed for specialised tasks, it is unlikely that their presence will have any significant effect on the coalition's ability to pull themselves out of their economic recession.

Finally, the only way the Arabs will ever succeed in controlling their own destiny is by becoming self-sufficient, particularly in agriculture. One way to do this is for Arab countries to form a "Common Arab Economic Market" and to purchase as little as possible from outside this community.

roads, etc. There will probably be a massive use of prefabricated building systems. But the top priority must be to return basic services as soon as possible.

As in the past, many of the Iraqi contracts will be negotiated directly as opposed to issuing tenders, which are often time consuming, and it seems likely that in Iraq for example, many contracts will go to firms from countries that supported Iraq in the Gulf war, and secondly, those that played a neutral role.

Finally, the only way the Arabs will ever succeed in controlling their own destiny is by becoming self-sufficient, particularly in agriculture. One way to do this is for Arab countries to form a "Common Arab Economic Market" and to purchase as little as possible from outside this community.



Kremlin power play underpins push for peace

By Thomas Ginsberg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The allied forces' apparently crushing defeat of Iraq is spurring a political assault in Moscow against one of Mikhail Gorbachev's last strongholds of reform: foreign policy.

Traditionalists in the military and government are rising in the von left by former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and are putting pressure on the president to block U.S. domination in the Middle East, Soviet analysts say.

And the West's rejection of Gorbachev's peace efforts may have hurt his ability to fend off the conservatives by broadening foreign policy gains, as he has done in the past.

It remains to be seen how far Gorbachev will bend away from support for the U.S. position on Iraq. But most observers say the pressure is having a seismic impact on the leader, who has little liberal reform remaining.

Gorbachev is making some concessions to the military, but that doesn't mean he is guided by it," said Nadezhda Semionova, deputy director of the Institute for World Economics and International Relation.

Gorbachev furiously pursued a last-ditch peace effort last week before the ground was

The efforts followed weeks of warnings in the media and by senior officials, including Gorbachev, that the United States is not beyond the U.N. Security Council resolutions in the war against Iraq.

Even after failing to persuade U.S. President George Bush to end the land offensive, Soviets kept trying to squeeze every possible hope out of their peace plan, and seized the first chance to call for a ceasefire on Tuesday.

Apparently anticipating criticism, Gorbachev's spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko tried to portray the failed Soviet peace effort as at least as a good sign in U.S.-Soviet relations. He told reporters that Gorbachev discussed the war with Bush "in a traditional spirit of trust. It was a conversation of two great statesmen fully aware of their responsibility."

Shevchenko, an architect of the Soviet foreign policy that brought about the better U.S.-Soviet ties, resigned last December warning of a coming dictatorship. While his stern words were directed to domestic politics, his absence has cleared the way for changes in foreign policy, too, experts

said.

President Adviser Yevgeny Primakov, an old friend, is leading a faction that "wants to save face for Saddam," said Andrei Korotkov, an analyst at the Institute for USA and Canada.

Primakov's views may hold sway even over Shevardnadze's replacement, Alexander Bessmertnykh, who has not yet built his own constituency at the foreign ministry after six years as ambassador to Washington.

Korotkov also said the Soviet military is apprehensive about a dominant role by the U.S. military in Iraq, which was once securely in the Soviet camp. Another analyst, Vladimir Nosenko, said some generals clearly favour keeping Saddam in power.

The United States has made no secret of its desire for Saddam's departure.

One Soviet general already has warned publicly about the fighting, which is near the Soviet Union's southern border, and said anti-aircraft batteries were on the alert.

Moscow long has maintained a strong force in heavily Muslim Soviet central Asia and the Caucasus republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. The military has short-range missiles, tank battalions and infantry regiments in the area.

Air assault bridges, including helicopter gunships and paratrooper battalions, have been deployed in central Asia in recent years, according to U.S. military reports.

Another pressure point on Gorbachev comes from Soviet Muslims, who number an estimated 80 million in a country of 280 million. Some signs of pro-Iraq sentiment already have surfaced, including formation of a "young Saddamites" group in central Asia.

While they have not united so far against Gorbachev for supporting the anti-Iraq alliance, there is widespread fear they could rebel if the Kremlin sits by while their religious brethren in Iraq are put under the Western thumb.

Soviet experts said Kremlin leaders envision a new regional security pact under U.N. auspices that would include the five Security Council members — the United States, Soviet Union, France, Britain and China — along with all major regional powers, including Israel and Iraq. It would be formed during a regional peace conference after the war.

"It must be a new balance of power," said Vitaly V. Naumkin, a Mideast analyst at the Institute of Oriental Studies.

Cat and mouse game with Israeli army

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank — Activist Israeli doctors probed army defences all morning in an effort to deliver a van-load of baby milk formula to Palestinians in the West Bank.

Soldiers played a cat and mouse game as the doctors strived to focus international attention on the hardships of 1.75 million Palestinians living under curfew in the Israeli occupied territories.

The doctors, who received the milk formula from an American Jewish charity, had foreign journalists and a British parliamentarian in tow to witness last Wednesday's encounters with the military in the rocky hills around Nablus.

The West Bank city has been one of the most violent centres of the Palestinian intifada for the past three years.

The doctors were looking for a breach in the green line separating Israel from the West Bank.

After an hour's haggling at the first roadblock, an Israeli soldier announced the verdict down over field radio by his commander.

"The answer is no, you must turn back. I am only obeying orders," he said.

The main reason for the

curfew is that it's a kind of punishment for supporting Saddam," Marton said.

The curfew clearly has the support of ordinary Israelis even though it is playing havoc with industries which depend on Palestinian workers.

Only about 10 per cent of the 120,000 workers who normally commute from the occupied territories to factories and farms in Israel are currently allowed to leave their areas.

The result, say Marton and Palestinian leaders, is acute poverty, disrupted schooling and a serious risk to the health of the elderly and the very young.

"People are living day by day. They've started selling off their jewellery to buy food," Marton said.

Such claims are nonsense, say army spokesmen in Tel Aviv.

"There is no shortage of baby food, there is an abundance. These people are just being political," one spokesman said.

So why prevent the press from entering the occupied territories to see for themselves?

"The Scots are sufficient pressure for the moment. Without wanting it, the press

creates more agitation in the territories simply by its presence," was the army's reply.

Undaunted by their initial failure, Marton and her convoy eventually found a back route winding through olive groves and headed for the Al Tabib hospital in Nablus.

More palaver with tough-looking Israeli soldiers in flak jackets ended in compromise. The doctors could distribute their milk and the journalists could get out of town at once, under military escort.

"This is a closed area today. It's closed to everybody," a young officer, more accustomed to facing stones than note-pads, repeated patiently.

The British member of parliament, George Galloway of the Labour Party, was questioned by soldiers for two hours after an incident in the cashah, the doctors said later.

"Some soldiers were running after children and George was arrested after he went to investigate," Marton said.

Journalists from Reuters and Tokyo Broadcasting System were detained for 90 minutes while soldiers and policemen sought confirmation that they were free to leave Nablus.

He also wants to thwart a

possible Islamic backlash against Christians and secure a comprehensive post-war settlement.

"The constant refusal of the U.S. to sit down and talk out the entire Middle East situation has been a stumbling block and this must be overcome after the war," said one Vatican source.

"I don't think the mood here in the Vatican is anti-U.S. or anti-allies but there was a feeling that an opportunity for a negotiated solution was missed. That would have been the civilised way to go," he said.

In order to present a common Catholic front on the future of the Middle East the Pope has called his next week and the Pope has repeatedly stressed that war would only aggravate Middle East problems.

The Vatican had given its full backing to the Soviet plan and this front-page editorial reflected the holy see's frustrations.

Without waiting for the fighting to end, the Pope has called his own Middle East summit of church leaders for next week and Vatican sources say he determined to use the gathering to tackle explosive issues such as the Palestinian question.

At his general audience on Wednesday, the Pope prayed for a swift end to the sufferings of the wounded, prisoners, refugees and entire civilian populations, and said all peoples in the region deserved "a just and lasting peace."

Vatican sources say the Pope's stand has been guided by his desire to support every effort to stop the war.

The Pope feels that a Palestinian homeland is vital to a lasting peace in the region. Diplomats believe this is where the rift between the Vatican and the United States and Israel will be most evident.

The Vatican has said it cannot grant diplomatic recognition to Israel until the Palestinians get a homeland.

Church sources said that now the war was under way, they expected the Vatican to do everything possible to show that it was a political and not a religious conflict.

"Countries that are closer to the Arab World than the United States and have to deal with the situation in a realistic way have to face the possibility of a reaction against Christianity and the West," a church scholar said.

"For the future of the tiny Christian communities in Muslim areas and for the future of relations between the West and the Arab World there

Scientists fear ancient sites of Mesopotamia hit

By Mike Feinsilber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Every bomb that falls on Iraq hits Mesopotamia underneath, the place where civilisation started. Now, American planners, wary lest the fighting sweep away treasures of the ancient world, are turning to an expert for advice.

"These remains are a priceless heritage for all mankind," nine scholars wrote recently in an appeal to President George Bush to protect the historic and archaeological sites and museums of Iraq.

Since then, one of the scholars, Robert Adams, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been asked by the government for information on what sites to avoid.

"It is my understanding that they asked him for information and he supplied that information," Smithsonian spokeswoman Madeleine Jacobs said Tuesday. "I don't know what the specific information was and I don't know if it was the CIA. It was government officials."

Archaeologists who have worked in southern Iraq are holding their breath and hoping that war will not shatter the treasures there that still inspire wonder and contain clues to mysteries lingering over the dawns of civilisation.

"Iraq is one big archaeological site," said Donald Hansen of New York University, who has been excavating there for 35 years and would be digging now if it weren't for the war. "None of us know anything specifically, but one can only assume, with all that bombing, that some things have been damaged."

Some scholars think future generations will look upon anyone who destroys Iraq's buried history as barbarians. And they suggested as much in their letter to Mr. Bush.

In World War II, allied bombers spared German-occupied Paris, "the city of light," and avoided hitting such rich repositories as the Vatican in Rome and the emperor's palace in Tokyo.

"If we were waging war on Egypt, we would be a lot more reverent," said the University of Chicago's McGuire Gibson. "No one would dare bomb King Tut's tomb or the Pyramids, he said."

Since 1964, Mr. Gibson has been digging at Nippur, which for

6,000 years was the seat of the Mesopotamian religion.

Ten or 15 metres beneath the sands of Iraq are perhaps half a million sites, including 100 or 200 ancient cities, most still uncovered. They are the stuff of history yet to be recorded.

They offer to tell what life was like in the place where Judeo-Christian ideas were first conceived, where mankind learned to write, to codify law and to raise crops and animals. It is where Abraham, the progenitor of the Hebrews, was born and where both Jonah of the Bible and the whale who swallowed him are said to be buried.

Gibson said scholars could list 20 crucial places that should be spared. Because no damage has been reported at the excavations at Babylon, near the industrial city of Hillah, he thinks allied commanders have declared that site off-limits.

In their letter to Mr. Bush, Mr. Adams and his eight fellow scholars said that "accident, miscalculation and uncertainty play a major part in every war."

They added they could "only solemnly urge that all parties to the hostilities take every possible measure to protect them and to avoid military operations in their immediate vicinity."

"International crime or carelessness leading to their destruction would almost equally darken the record of any nation or individual responsible."

Gerold Cooper of Johns Hopkins University is sensitive to the perception that his profession worries more about what the war is doing to objects than to people.

"It is limbo, just being stalled at certain moments," he said in an interview. "You feel guilty about surviving and you see how many people blame soldiers for a war after it's over."

His slow climb back was helped by joining Lincoln University clinical psychologist Roderick Orner in a study of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among 53 Falklands veterans.

Not so, he said, but "we worry about the material damage because this is where we work, this is our career."

Some archaeologists remain optimistic that Iraq's antiquities will outlast the war.

"Buried sites will not be too badly injured," predicted Gus W. van Beek of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. "It must be remembered that they built with sun-dried mud brick, which would absorb a shock better than a rigid building."

Added Mr. Cooper: "The great danger to antiquities is not the stuff in the ground, but the things that have been restored and put on display."

Returning British soldiers will face mental battles

By Caroline Allen
Reuters

LONDON — As British troops finally join combat in the Gulf, veterans of past wars are warning of psychological battles to come when the men get home.

Grim tales of an ex-gunner who wouldn't go to sleep for days for fear of his dreams or a downed pilot whose leg still aches if a door slams are just movie nightmares, says Tim Lynch, a veteran of the 1982 Falklands war between Britain and Argentina.

"But mostly it's not a case of screaming if a car backfires. It is how you whole quality of life suffers," said Lynch. "I fear for the future. We are not ready for what is coming."

A former medic and radio operator who evacuated wounded after Falklands' battles, Lynch is now organising telephone helplines through which veterans can counsel soldiers back from the Gulf.

After Falklands, it took

Lynch years to begin picking up the pieces of his own life and start his psychological recovery.

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Added Mr. Cooper: "The great danger to antiquities is not the stuff in the ground, but the things that have been restored and put on display."

But for soldiers, the ordeal is

compounded by notions of heroism and bravery.

Lynch's father and grandfather both served in the army. "When I joined it was assumed I knew what I was letting myself in for," said Lynch, who signed up aged 16. "It's the John Wayne syndrome — great pressure to keep your emotions in check."

Veterans of the two world wars might call PTSD battle-shock or shellshock. "What we went through is not new," Lynch said. "But we have had little contact with those from the world wars... perhaps it's the generation gap."

Lynch says he has more in common with Horacio Benitez, an Argentine Falklands veteran whose factory outside Buenos Aires uses its profits to pay for counselling for former comrades.

After several Falklands combatants published harrowing accounts of the war, Britain's Royal Navy set up psychiatric counselling units. But it remains a sensitive topic.

"Like any other requirement, the medical and psychological needs of our servicemen are fully met," said a ministry of defence public relations official. He refused further details.

Lincoln University's Orner said a soldier's first defense against stress would be getting enough food and sleep, and help from colleagues. Then, the sooner they can talk through their experiences, the better.

Lynch added: "It means coming to terms with what you did... what you had to do, witnessing... whatever you witnessed."

So far, British families have not seen a flood of body-bags bringing loved ones home from war against Iraq. But fear of chemical war, and television images of captured British pilots have raised the national stress level.

Military and civilian Gulf support groups say they are already swamped with distraught enquiries about aliens and have seen their friends wounded or dead.

"Families are putting a brave face on it but emotional problems are coming through," said Chris Hogg of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Association.

But for soldiers, the ordeal is

estimated 85,000 to 100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, the Washington Post said in Thursday's editions.

U.S. officials said Washington would press for continued sanctions to keep President Saddam from rebuilding Iraq's forces.

In his speech, Mr. Bush tacitly urged the Iraqi people to topple President Saddam.

"Coalition forces fought this war only as a last resort, and look forward to the day when Iraq is led by people prepared to live in peace with their neighbours," he said.

At least 126 allied troops were killed in the fighting. Iraqi casualties were far, far higher. The Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, quoted Saudi military sources as

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Khaleda Zia's party leads in 1st free Bangladesh elections

DHAKA (AP) — The centrist party headed by Khaleda Zia, widow of an assassinated president, held the lead as votes were counted Thursday, but appeared unlikely to win a parliamentary majority, news reports said.

The elections Wednesday marked the first democratic transition of power since Bangladesh gained its independence from Pakistan in 1971. All of the country's previous nine governments took charge following coups or assassinations.

Political observers said the voting trends indicated no single party would be able to win a majority, making a hung parliament likely.

With results announced for 240 of parliament's 300 seats, Mrs. Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party had taken 109 seats, state-run television reported. Elections in two districts were cancelled because of the deaths of competing candidates.

The Awami League, led by

Sheik Hasina, daughter of another assassinated president, took 75 seats. Five other seats went to small parties allied with the Awami League.

Last year the two women temporarily put aside their long-time rivalry and joined forces to lead a mass movement that forced President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to give up the power he seized in a 1982 military coup.

Mrs. Zia won in two of the five districts where she ran. Results were incomplete in the others.

Hasina won in one of the three constituencies where she ran. Her party charged that there was widespread bribing and intimidation of voters in her districts and asked the election commission to order new polls.

Hasina is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's first president, who was killed during a 1975 coup. Mrs. Zia's husband, President Ziaur Rahman, was assassinated in 1981.

The election commission said at least 60 per cent of the 62 million registered voters turned out to choose among the 70 parties and 423 independent candi-

dates.

Under Bangladeshi law, candidates can run for as many as five seats, but they can keep only one.

By-elections would have to be



Khaleda Zia

600 die in Zambia cholera outbreak

LUSAKA (R) — Cholera sweeping Zambia has killed nearly 600 people in the worst outbreak of the disease in the country, officials said Thursday.

"Deaths are being reported on an escalating scale. The disease is spreading from area to area and is not being contained," a senior official of the Zambia Red Cross said.

"It is a crisis and it is getting worse."

The official, who asked not to be named, said 6,487 cases of the disease had been reported since it first broke out four months ago, with 588 deaths by last week in seven of the country's nine provinces.

At least 625 people were arrested across the country, mostly on charges of trying to cast false ballots or carrying firearms and explosives, United News of

Bangladesh said.

The official who asked not to be named, said 6,487 cases of the disease had been reported since it first broke out four months ago, with 588 deaths by last week in seven of the country's nine provinces.

It is the worst outbreak of cholera recorded in Zambia, where an epidemic in early 1990 claimed over 200 lives.

Zambia's Health Ministry has blamed the outbreak on a breakdown in social services resulting in poor sanitation and water supply in residential areas.

The Red Cross official said the outbreak could have been prevented.

"It is pure negligence on the part of many quarters who have not done their work. This is a preventable disease... we had an outbreak last year and should have taken precautions," he said.

The three-day convention aims to elect a presidential candidate and 37 shadow cabinet ministers who will challenge Kaunda and his party at presidential and parliamentary elections this year.

Four contenders for the presidency of the democratic movement have put their names forward. The victor will challenge Kaunda at the polls.

Fredrick Chiluba, 46, chairman of the powerful 300,000-member Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, is the favourite, according to convention goers.

"Vote for the man of the people," said a pamphlet distributed to Chiluba's supporters at the convention.

The meeting of academics, students, businessmen, trade union leaders and former Kamda loyalists capped months of mounting public dissent against corruption, mismanagement and nepotism in the government.

Wiza, a founder of Kamda's ruling United National Independence Party and Zambia's first finance minister, told more than

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